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California State Senate

SENATOR
RAYMOND N. HAYNES
THIRTY-SIXTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
REPUBLICAN WHIP



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AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE
EXCHANGE COUNCIL

October 4, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch, Commission Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
CY-B402
Washington DC 20.554

RECEIVED

OCT - 9 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FCC Proceeding: 02-306

Dear Commissioners:

As the nation's most populous state – and one of the world's largest economies – you would think that businesses would be fighting for the chance to set up shop in California and vie for the business of California consumers.

Unfortunately, as the *Wall Street Journal* recently reported, California ranks 50th among the nation's business executives for the desirability of "doing business." Tragically, the state's rank has tumbled 48 spots.

The reasons for California's business and economic decline are unfortunately numerous. But they can be demonstrated by the California Public Utilities Commission's review of SBC Pacific Bell's long distance application. While more than 20 other states have approved applications and the Federal Communications Commission has opened those markets to competition, the CPUC has plodded along with their four-year review. This slow process has denied California consumers the benefits of increased competition for too long.

Competition in the telecommunications market is a reality in California – and it has been for several years. While the CPUC's approval of SBC Pacific Bell's long distance should have come sooner, I am comforted by the fact that the FCC's endorsement of that application will bring further competition to our long distance markets by year's end. Californians want to join the millions of Americans who are enjoying more competition and lower phone bills every month.

I urge you to help California keep pace with the rest of the nation and approve SBC Pacific Bell's application to offer long distance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Ray Haynes in black ink.
Ray Haynes
Senator, 36th District

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